



Montessori Seeds of Education's Elementary Summer Reading Instructions

Upcoming 1st and 2nd years:

1. Keep a log of the books you read over the summer. Besides choosing your own, please choose as many books as possible from the list provided.

Title	Author	No. of Pages

2. Choose two of your favorite books from the list and answer the following questions about each.

- a. Who were the main characters in the story?
- b. Who was your favorite character and why?
- c. What happened at the end of the story?
- d. What did you learn from the story?
- e. Draw a picture of your favorite character or scene from the book.

3. Practice your cursive writing.

Upcoming 3rd years:

1. Keep a log of all the books you read over the summer, just as stated above. Read at least three books from the list provided.

2. Choose three of your favorite books from the list provided and answer these questions in complete sentences.

- a. Who were the main characters?
- b. Describe their appearance and personality?
- c. What did your favorite main character do in the story?
- d. What happened at the end of the story?
- e. What character would you most/least like to be? Why?
- f. Draw a picture of your favorite character or setting in the book.
- g. What did you learn from the story?

3. Practice your cursive writing (i.e. make lists, write letters to family, etc.). Practice your math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division).

Upcoming 4th, 5th, and 6th years:

1. Included is the “MSOE Upper Elementary Summer Reading List.”

- a. Fourth years choose two books from the list and write a report for each.
- b. Fifth years, choose three books from the list and write a report for each.
- c. Sixth years, choose four books from the list and write a report for each.

You may read other books not on this list - keep a log of all the books you read over the summer.

2. Use the following outline to type or write (in cursive) a report for each book you choose from the lists.

a. Introduction Paragraph: Include the title and author of the story as well as the type of the book. Make sure you have four sentences.

b. Body Paragraphs: i. through iii. should be at least 5 sentences. Use at least two quotes to show evidence from the book in order to support your writing.

i. Setting: Describe the time and place of this book. If the time and place changes, describe those changes.

ii. Characters: Who are the main characters in the book? Choose one character to write about more. How did the character change over the course of the story? What did he/she learn?

iii. Plot: Summarize the events of the story, including the complications that occur, the climax/conflict and the resolution.

c. Conclusion Paragraph: What did you think of the book? Did you like it? Why or why not? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?



Montessori Seeds of Education's Lower Elementary Summer Reading List

Popular simple chapter book series:

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and his sister Annie travel to other places and times in a magic tree house. Ms. Osborne has just published book #39.

A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy

Three friends, Dink, Josh and Ruby Rose, solve one mystery for each letter of the alphabet, from The Absent Author to The Zombie Zone.

The Secrets of Droon by Tony Abbott

Eric, Julie and Neil enter the land of Droon through a secret door that appears in Eric's basement. There they meet many fantastic creatures and help save Princess Keeah.

For emerging readers:

There is a Bird on Your Head (2008 Theodore Seuss Geisel Award) by Mo Willems

An elephant and pig help each other through troubling situations, with hilarious results. The simple illustrations evoke humor and emotions masterfully. Great for reluctant early readers. Other titles in the Elephant and Piggie series include My Friend is Sad, I'm Invited to a Party, and Today I Will Fly.

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

Arnold Lobel's comfortable brown and green illustrations invite and delight every reader, setting the tone for warm, funny stories about friendship. If you need even more of Frog and Toad, don't miss Frog and Toad Together, Frog and Toad All Year, and Days with Frog and Toad.

Little Bear by Else Homelund Minarik

Minarik and Maurice Sendak teamed up to create these simple stories that are deeply comforting and lovingly playful. Follow up with A Kiss For Little Bear, Father Bear Comes Home, and Little Bear's Visit.

Henry and Mudge The First Book by Cynthia Rylant

This is the first book in the acclaimed easy-to-read series featuring Henry and his lovable 180-pound dog, Mudge. The deep friendship between Henry and his dog is evident throughout their amusing adventures. Many other titles are also available in this series.

Other recommended authors:

Eva Ibbotson, Patricia Polacco, Paula Danziger, Beverly Cleary, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Roald Dahl, Patricia Reilly Giff, and Patricia McKissack.

Title	Author	Description	Genre	Grade Equivalent
Nice Animals and The Well	James Rumford	Nine animals are on their way to the raja-king's birthday party and each guest wants to bring the perfect gift. The rich, jewel-toned illustrations are framed by European, North African, Arabic, and Indian numerals on the side and are placed on handmade Indian paper decorated with flowers.	Fairy Tales	K-3
Boo's Dinosaur	Betsy Byars	When young Boo is followed home by a dinosaur that only she can see, it causes a bit of trouble for her older brother, Sammy.	Fiction	K-3
Rikki Tikki Tavi	Rudyard Kipling	A courageous mongoose thwarts the evil plans of Nag and Nagaina, two big black cobras who live in the garden of an English family living in India.	Fiction	3-5
Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog	Pamela Turner	This small, square picture book pays tribute to one of the world's lesser-known animal heroes: Hachiko, a dog who kept vigil for nearly 10 years at a Tokyo train station waiting for his deceased master to return from work.	Drama Non-Fiction	K-3
The Blind Hunter	Kristina Rodanas	Inspired by a Shona folktale from southern Africa, this picture book uses a wild setting to teach a universal lesson. Although Chirobo is blind, he shows a young stranger, Muteye, that he can "see" with his ears his nose, and his skin and that learning comes from the heart.	Fairy Tale	3-5

By The Dawn's Early Light	Steven Kroll	A handsomely illustrated account of the writing of our national anthem, in its historical context.	History	1-4
A Crazy Day With Cobras	Mary Pope Osborne	This is the newest adventure of Jack and Annie, in which the children set off to India on a mission to reverse a spell that turned their dear friend Penny into a stone statue.	Fiction	1-4
Sarah, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan	This is the story of Sarah, who came to the prairie from Maine to answer Jacob's advertisement for a wife and mother. This lovely little tale closes on a scene of love and harmony made more complicated, but not diminished, by past sorrows. (Newbery Award)	Fiction	1-5
The High-Rise Private Eyes: The Case of the Desperate Duck	Cynthia Rylant	In this case, animal detectives Bunny and Jack help Mabel the duck find out who stole the sugar cubes from her tearoom. Check out the entire series.	Fiction	K-3
Ruby Lu, Brave and True	Lenore Look	Ruby Lu makes her debut in this funny and charming chapter book. Full of joie de vivre, the eight-year-old loves her family (particularly her baby brother, Oscar), wearing reflective tape, and performing in her own backyard magic show.	Fiction	1-5
Half Magic	Edward Eager	The absorbing tale of four children who discover a magic coin that grants wishes by halves.	Fairy Tale	4-6
Freckle Juice	Judy Blume	The story of Andrew Marcus and his quest to have freckles. Its spontaneous humor is sure to appeal to young readers.	Fiction	3-5
Charlotte's Web	E.B.White	Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend Charlotte, decides to help him. (Newbery Honor)	Fiction	3-6
My Father's Dragon	Ruth Stiles Gannett	A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. (Newbery Honor)	Fantasy	2-4
The Hundred Dresses	Eleanor Estes	Friendship, peer pressure, regret, and courage are all issues that are integral to this story. Wanda Petronski tells classmates she has a hundred dresses of all varieties in her closet at home. So why does she always wear the same old worn dress to school? (Newbery Honor)	Fiction	1-4

The Boxcar Children	Gertrude Chandler Warner	Four orphans take shelter in an old, red boxcar during a storm. Determined to make it on their own they turn it into a safe, cozy home. An entertaining mystery that children will love to solve.	Mystery and Detective	2-5
Poppy	Avi	A young mouse embarks on a dangerous and eye-opening quest to bring justice and truth to Dimwood Forest. Other enjoyable titles in the Dimwood Forest Series: Poppy and Rye, Ragweed, Ereth's Birthday, and Poppy's Return	Science Fiction & Fantasy	3-6
Ivy + Bean	Annie Barrows	When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. This is one of a series.	Fiction	1-5
Nate the Great and the Hungry Book Club	Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Mitchell Sharmat	Rosamond, who starts a book club, claims there is a monster on the loose that is ruining pages of her cookbook, which leads Nate the Great and his dog Sludge to investigate as undercover detectives. Check out the entire <i>Nate the Great</i> series.	Mystery & Detective	1-4
Amelia Bedelia's First Field Trip	Herman Parish	Amelia Bedelia goes with her class to visit a farm, where her literal-mindedness causes confusion along with some laughs. Check out the entire <i>Amelia Bedelia</i> series.	Humor	Pre-K - 3
The Dot	Peter Reynolds	"Just make a mark and see where it takes you." This sage advice, offered by her teacher, sets the young heroine on a journey of self-expression, artistic experimentation, and success.	Picture Book	K-2
Encyclopedia Brown: Boy Detective	Donald Sobol	A Civil War sword... A watermelon stabbing... Missing roller skates... A trapeze artist's inheritance... And an eyewitness who's legally blind! These are just some of the ten brain-twisting mysteries that Encyclopedia Brown must solve by using his famous computer-like brain. Check out the entire <i>Encyclopedia Brown</i> series.	Adventure Mystery & Suspense	3-5
Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Spring Babies	Erica Silverman	Kate and her horse Cocoa watch over the new calves, a puppy, and some baby barn owls. This is one of a series.	Fiction	K-2

The Best Story	Eileen Spinelli	When a contest at the local library offers a prize for the best story, a girl tries to write one using her family's suggestions, but her story does not seem right until she listens to her heart.	Fiction	1-3
Sylvester and The Magic Pebble	William Steig	In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock, but then he cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again! Caldecott Medal 1970	Science Fiction & Fantasy	Pre-K-2
Mudball	Matt Tavares	During a rainy Minneapolis Millers baseball game in 1903, Little Andy Oyler has the chance to become a hero by hitting the shortest and muddiest home run in history.	Sports & Outdoors	1-4



Montessori Seeds of Education's Upper Elementary Summer Reading List

Many of the authors of the books listed below have written other great books, as well.

Other Recommended Authors: Sharon Creech, Karen Cushman, Scott O'Dell, E. B. White, Lois Lowry, J. K. Rowling, Russell Freedman, Karen Hesse

Title	Author	Description	Genre	Grade Equivalent
The Dreamer	Pam Muñoz Ryan	A novel based on the childhood of Nobel Laureate poet Pablo Neruda. Poetic illustrations by Peter Sis complete this beautiful story of an artistic young man whose father does not appreciate his dreams and talent.	Biography	4-6
Drawing from Memory	Allen Say	Using watercolor paintings, original cartoons, vintage photographs, and maps, Caldecott medalist Allen Say chronicles his experiences as an artist during World War II and describes his relationship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist.	Biography	4-6
The Invention of Hugo Cabret	Brian Selznick	The author says, –My new book, <i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i> , is a 550 page novel in words and pictures. But unlike most novels, the images in my new book don't just illustrate the story; they help tell it...Paris in the 1930's, a thief, a broken machine, a strange girl, a mean old man, and the secrets that tie them all together... Welcome to <i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i> .” (Caldecott Medal)	Historical Fiction	4-6

The Thief Lord	Cornelia Funke	Welcome to the magical underworld of Venice, Italy. Here, hidden canals and crumbling rooftops shelter runaways and children with incredible secrets...	Science Fiction & Fantasy	4-6
Darth Paper Strikes Back: An Origami Yoda Book	Tom Angleberger	Harvey, upset when his Darth Paper finger puppet brings humiliation, gets Dwight suspended – but Origami Yoda asks Tommy and Kellan, now in seventh grade, to make a new case file to persuade the School Board to reinstate Dwight. Check out the entire series.	Humor	4-6
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	A 10-year-old boy in Depression-era Michigan set out to find the man he believes to be his father. (Newbery Medal)	Historical Fiction	4-6
The Star of Kazan	Eva Ibbotson	Abandoned as a baby, Annika is found and adopted by two maids. Growing up in early-20th-century Vienna, she is perfectly content until a beautiful aristocrat appears and claims to be her mother, sweeping her off to a new life in a crumbling castle in northern Germany. Then the adventure and mystery begin.	Historical Fiction	4-6
Elijah of Buxton	Christopher Paul Curtis	Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada. When Elijah embarks on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of a thief, he discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents fled—a life from which he'll always be free, if he can find the courage to get back home. (Newbery Honor)	History	4-6
Rules	Cynthia Lord	12 year old Cynthia develops a set of rules to help her autistic brother David cope with life. Set in coastal Maine, this sensitive story is about being different, feeling different, and finding acceptance.	Fiction	4-6
Pictures of Hollis Woods	Patricia Reilly Giff	A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.	Literary Fiction	4-6
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	Avi	The exciting adventure of a young woman's sailing trip from England to Providence, RI in 1832. (Newbery Honor)	Historical Fiction	4-6

Misty of Chincoteague	Marguerite Henry	This story has captured generations of children both with its thrilling descriptions of true incidents from the tiny island of Chincoteague, and its realistic, yet wonderfully magical atmosphere. It is the story of a wild horse brought into captivity, and it poignantly reveals the powerful opposing forces of humans and nature.	Fiction	4-6
Walk Two Moons	Sharon Creech	A funny, mysterious, and touching story about a thirteen-year-old who travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. (Newbery Medal)	Fiction	4-6
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler	E. L. Konigsburg	Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.	Mystery & Suspense	4-6
The Whipping Boy	Sid Fleischman	A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. (Newbery Medal)	Fiction	4-6
A Single Shard	Linda Sue Park	In this tale of courage and devotion, a single shard from a celadon vase changes the life of a young boy and his master. This book not only gives readers insight into ancient Korea, but it is also a wonderful tale of strength of character. (Newbery Medal)	Historical Novel	4-6
Redwall	Brian Jacques	When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior, which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy. A roller-coaster adventure that barely draws breath from the first page to the very last.	Action and Adventure	4-6
Good Masters, Sweet Ladies: Voices From A Medieval Village	Laura Amy Schlitz	Using a series of interconnected monologues and dialogues featuring young people living in and around an English manor in 1255, Schlitz offers first-person character sketches that build upon each other to create a finer understanding of medieval life. The book was inspired by the necessity of creating a play suitable for a classroom where "no one wanted a small part." (Newbery Medal).	Historical Fiction	4-6

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain	Peter Sis Sis' latest	A powerful combination of graphic novel and picture book, is an account of his growing up in Czechoslovakia under Soviet rule. (Caldecott Honor Book)	Biography	4-6
Lawn Boy	Gary Paulsen	This is a short and hilarious tale of a boy who receives a riding lawn mower from his grandmother as a birthday gift. Almost accidentally, he speeds up the ladder of financial success.	Humor	4-6
Chu Ju's House	Gloria Whelan	In Chu Ju's village in China families are only allowed two children, and tradition states one should be a boy. When Chu Ju's mother gives birth to a second girl, Chu Ju leaves home and must live on her own to spare her sister's life.	Realistic Fiction	4-6
Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures	Brian Selznick	Relates the story of 12 year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City; and Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words, Rose's in pictures.	Historical Fiction	4-6
Moon Over Manifest	Clare Vanderpool	12-year-old Abilene is sent to Manifest, Kansas, in 1936 to stay with Pastor Shady Howard. She doesn't understand why, and spends the summer piecing together the story of her father. (2011 Newberry Medal)	Historical Fiction	4-6
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	10 year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering 5th grade at a private school in Manhattan. He is forced to endure the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as —normal.	Realistic Fiction	4-6
The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom	Chris Healy	Liam, Frederic, Duncan, and Gustav—all former princes who had been rejected by their princesses and cast out of their castles—encounter trolls, witches, and dragons during their quest to become heroes.	Action & Adventure	4-6
The Magician's Elephant	Kate DiCamillo	When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day who tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures in an attempt to find her.	Science Fiction & Fantasy	4-6

**Inside Out and
Back Again**

Thanhha Lai

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975 when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam to resettle in Alabama. (Newberry Honor Book)

Historical
Fiction

4-6